

Dear Pack Representatives,

There has been some concern expressed regarding the fact that Topsanah's Twilight Camp is being held in a public park with unrestricted access. This concern has raised interest in the measures that will be taken to ensure the safety of our Cub Scouts during Day Camp. I gave you an overview of the procedures that will be taken, and am now providing this information in hard/electronic format so that you can pass it to any parent who has questions.

Having Cub Scout Day Camp in a public park is not unusual. Seven of the twenty-two Districts in this Council are holding their Day Camp in a public park. Longhorn Council has surely encouraged this, in order to raise the visibility of the Scouting program in the community. That being said, Longhorn Council, Topsanah District, nor I are interested in putting any of the boys in harms' way. Therefore, our security procedures have been developed to address the fact that we will be out in a public area being accessed by other citizens of the community.

As you are probably aware, the Cubs, the Walking Den leaders and Tot Lot attendees are given Camp t-shirts that have a specific color and logo. Camp staff will have a separate color so that we can differentiate between the Walking Den Leaders and Staff, and the Boy Scouts will be in red t-shirts. All of these t-shirts will have the same logo. If an individual is not wearing their camp t-shirt, they are expected to be in their Class A or Activity uniform. In other words, in their Cub Scout or Boy Scout uniform. T-shirts will be issued prior to camp. The t-shirts will be the visual indicator for our Staff and Security patrols that boys and adults present are a part of the camp.

We will have a team of Scouts and leaders directing parking for entry into Camp. As the cars are parked, the Walking Den Leaders and/or Pack Representatives will proceed directly to the check-in and make sure all of the boys are accounted for. If a boy is signed in as present on Monday, and does not show up on any of the other days, with or without an excuse, his parents will be called to confirm that he will not be attending that day. When the Boy Scouts and Adult Staff have finished directing parking, they will begin patrolling the entire Camp area. The plan is to have a minimum of 4 teams walking the Camp area, keeping an eye out for stray Cubs **and** adults or children who are not wearing Camp colors. Adults and others that have wandered into a Session area and are not wearing Camp colors or a visitors badge will be approached and asked to sign in at our registration area. Camp directors will be advised of any interactions, and the resolution. Those adults and others that stay to the paths will not be approached. Boy Scouts and adults will be alert for those individuals that do not appear to be a part of the Camp. If for some reason, a Security patrol is not able to convince an unregistered individual to register or depart, one of my directors or I will address the situation. The Flower Mound Police Department has been advised of the location and time of our Camp, the appropriate beat supervisor notified, and we have asked for increased visibility during our Camp.

There will be at least one Walking Den Leader for every five boys, and the boys will be operating on the buddy system. That means that no matter what a boy is doing, be it getting a drink, going to the restroom, swapping hat trinkets, or eating a snack, they should be with a buddy. The boys should be instructed by their Walking Den Leaders to tell an adult if they need to leave the group for any reason. These instructions will be reinforced at Walking Den Leader training.

As I have stated, there will be a check-in/check-out procedure in place to be followed. If a Cub checks in on Monday and doesn't check in on Tuesday, his contact numbers will be called to verify why he is not there. If a parent wants to check their son out before the end of the day, they will need to do so at the attendance table, which will be manned the entire tenure of Camp. Parents should be advised that they need to follow Camp check-in protocol for the protection of all of the boys. One of the questions for parents will be whether there is anyone who cannot pick the boy up. If anyone is named, there will be a follow-up call to obtain any specifics necessary to protect the welfare of the boy. Training before Camp for both Session Staff and Walking Den Leaders will address this issue.

At the end of the night, there will be a check-out procedure that accounts for all of the boys prior to them boarding vehicles and departing the site. Our Registrars and Parking crew will ensure that we have full accounting of all vehicles before they depart the parking lots. If we have a name that is not checked, there will be immediate phone calls to all of the contact numbers, including the Walking Den Leaders and Pack Representatives, to account for the discrepancy.

Our instructions to the Walking Den Leaders will not be one of scan and control, but rather head count and control. They should be aware of the number of boys they have on an ongoing basis. If boys have to go to the Port-a-Potty, they tell an adult and go with their buddy. If they are going to do swaps, they do it with their buddy. If they need to fill their water bottles, they do it with a buddy. Before a Walking Den leaves an area, Leaders do a head count. When the Walking Den gets to the next area, they do a head count. They do pay attention to where the boys are as they walk. Camp Staff will pay attention to visitors and others. The Council and District do hope to get some publicity out of this, but we intend to do it in a safe manner for the boys. Walking Den Leaders are expected to reinforce the buddy system and telling a Leader before leaving the Den on an ongoing basis, and we will be reminding the Cubs and adults, as well.

In addition to the controls I've already mentioned, the Camp will have radio communication across the Camp, so that any issues can be communicated and responded to immediately. I plan on having a daily log of communications and responses, including requests for water, ice, notification of injured person, unannounced visitors, etc.

The only thing we have not addressed, I believe, is what we do if a boy is unaccounted for. At this point, a Camp-wide signal will be sounded and all Walking Dens will report to a central location. Boys will be accounted for to ensure that we are, indeed, missing someone. At the point that it is determined we are missing a Cub, Walking Den Leaders will be left with the boys while the Staff and boy Scouts engage in a search and notify authorities.